

MAR 08 2019

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING TO  
WIDEN KUAKINI HIGHWAY BETWEEN LAKO STREET AND  
KAMEHAMEHA III ROAD ON HAWAII ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, vehicle traffic on Kuakini highway between Lako  
2 street and Kamehameha III road on Hawai'i island typically causes  
3 traffic jams lasting several consecutive hours in the mornings  
4 and evenings; and  
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6 WHEREAS, North Kona's population spiked by almost 4,000  
7 people to nearly 42,000 total from 2010 through 2016, causing  
8 additional traffic on Kuakini highway; and  
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10 WHEREAS, relieving the bottleneck surrounding where the  
11 Queen Kaahumanu and Kuakini highways merge by widening the  
12 roughly 1.7-mile stretch of Kuakini highway between the  
13 highway's intersections at Lako street and Kamehameha III road  
14 is necessary for the community's safety because of the amount of  
15 traffic that moves through that area; and  
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17 WHEREAS, widening Kuakini highway to make an additional  
18 lane may cost tens of millions of dollars, in part, because of  
19 the need to acquire surrounding property; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the federal government altered its priorities  
22 toward the maintenance and safety of existing roadways rather  
23 than the construction of new roadways; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the State has also modified its priorities toward  
26 maintenance and safety of existing roadways as federal funding  
27 is applicable and necessary for completion of this highway  
28 widening project; and  
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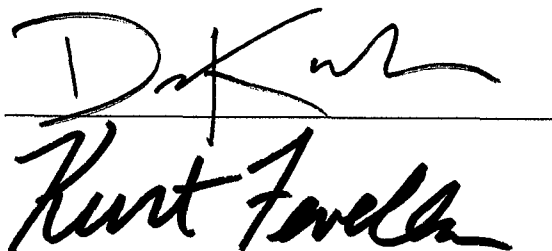
30 WHEREAS, easing traffic at one of Kona's most frustrating  
31 pinch points on Kuakini highway between Lako street and  
32 Kamehameha III road, is in the best safety and public welfare  
33 interests of the State; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
3 Department of Transportation is requested to prioritize funding  
4 to widen Kuakini highway between Lako street and Kamehameha III  
5 road on Hawai'i island; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and  
9 Mayor of the County of Hawai'i.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
Kurt Favelle

